

# Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

Nancy Nelson, Editor

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## The Conservation Pledge

*I pledge to protect and preserve the natural resources of the planet Earth, and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, land, forest, and wildlife.*

## June 8 is World Oceans Day Worldwide

*"The Water, she is our Friend"*

--Ancient Hawaiian Huna

You can look at an image from space to see that we are a blue-water planet that should have been named "OCEAN" rather than "EARTH" because the Great Seas are the LUNGS OF OUR PLANET.

In 2008 the UNITED NATIONS(UN) officially recognized **June 8** as **WORLD OCEANS DAY** to raise global awareness of the crucial role the Sea plays as source of OXYGEN. We are air-breathing creatures so there is nothing more important than honoring the OCEANS.

WORLD OCEANS DAY should be the planet's most revered celebration because it is time for everyone, everywhere, to show solidarity for conservation of the OCEANIC body of water that connects us all. *The Ocean Project* embraces the KEY ROLE for Life that the marine habitat part of the biosphere is.

Please come to the **OCEANS FILM FESTIVAL in Gold Beach, OREGON**, starting at 11 a.m. on **June 7-8, 2014**. The film series begins at 11 a.m. and will include "'Ocean Adventure" by Jean-Michel Cousteau. For more specific filmfest information, please call 541.247.7110, or visit [www.EventAtTheCoast@aol.com](http://www.EventAtTheCoast@aol.com).

The latest, greatest documentary film, "Ocean Blue" is available for viewing at [www.bluegold-worldwaterwars.com](http://www.bluegold-worldwaterwars.com) . If all global citizens would unite to protect the OCEAN, together we could be the ones to show love to the rising tides and soothe the troubled Waters of Mother EARTH's Dear Oceana.

(Sources: May 2014, YOUNG AT HEART, "World Oceans Day"; [www.wildcoastvacations.com/fun-activities-area/](http://www.wildcoastvacations.com/fun-activities-area/); [EventAtTheCoast@aol.com](http://EventAtTheCoast@aol.com); and [ask@wildcoastvacations.com](mailto:ask@wildcoastvacations.com) )

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The Looney Tune Biotech World

It's easy to make what seems like a convincing *Biotech World* case if science is only presenting one side, that of the Biotech Industry's *lobby*, whose prime concern is to make money. A critical thinker would look for disconfirming information, or a contrary opinion, and WHAT ALL SIDES ARE SAYING, because critical thinkers won't trust information that is trying to sell you something, or that has an apparent ideological or political agenda such as *Dr. Michael Taylor's* conflict of interest in having formerly been MONSANTO's Attorney, then MONSANTO's Vice-President.

The first *President Bush* brought *Mr. Taylor* over to the FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA). It is *President Obama* that promoted *Mr. Taylor* to head the FDA.

Critical thinkers look toward what multiple, INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC SOURCES are saying, because the more *controversial* a topic is, the greater the chance that Industry's own scientific information may be biased or skewed.

No wonder, then, that the American People distrust the FDA's "*Office of Biotechnology*" and its founder, *Dr. Henry Miller*, as a definitive source of scientific information.

It is especially important to survey a number of INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC SOURCES to get the broadest perspective possible regarding *Genetically Modified Organisms* (GMOs) in *Genetically Engineered* (GE) and *Synthetic biology* (SYNBIO) food, because there is *genuine public controversy* over eating it.

In the *United States of America*, the federal government took the unwarranted risk of allowing Industry's voluntary self-testing by its own in-house scientists. This policy has unwittingly contributed to media misinformation in AMERICA, where private companies use science press releases essentially to advertise their new products, attract investors, and drum up interest in their patented seeds and companion chemical sales. As a result the press gets duped by companies whose self-serving marketing stories may be almost entirely bogus, and is why critical thinkers question the overall quality of U.S. media information, which is indeed, highly variable.

The Corporate lobby and their paid marketers claim their GMO/GE products do thus and such to excite journalists and the media to fall into the common trap of reprinting science press releases when reporting science news stories. The press sensationalizes the unsubstantiated GMO/GE claims as news stories, but without checking facts.

This is problematic because press reporters may not even care about bad science news reporting so long as their media coverage makes sensational headlines. The reporters may not know that preliminary research claims by the biotechnology lobbyists are simply premature, and safety claims are alleged and unproven. Actually breast and prostate cancers, and all kinds of inflammatory diseases have skyrocketed in AMERICA since 1996 when the U.S. populace was used as petri pots for GMO/GE experimentation without our informed consent.

The ALTERED food products were unlabeled in our grocery stores, even though independent studies conducted by valid scientists elsewhere in the world proved the biotech Industry's GMO/GE food safety claims were incorrect. Elsewhere in the world follow-up studies found negative results, and the information was suppressed by the corporations that continued to patent and sell GMO seeds to U.S. farmers.

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Since U.S. news reporting is where the AMERICAN public gets most of their information, the real news was largely learned by travelling abroad. Our domestic U.S. reporters continue to err in confusing individual opinions of the likes of *Henry Miller*, *Cass Sunstein*, and *Michael Taylor* with the scientific community at large in the world. But the AMERICAN public is learning to have healthy skepticism when it comes to ideas in science.

It is *standard journalistic practice* in AMERICA for reporters to feel obliged to cover both sides of an issue equally, but that presents to the public a false impression. This FALSE BALANCE approach does not work well with confirmatory research findings of negative GMO/GE results. U.S. farmers are discovering that the GMO crops are proving to have *not* stood the test of time. Their yields are the same, not greater. Improving farming practices are what increase yields, NOT the patented GMO seed contracts.

GMO crops are susceptible to super bugs and super weeds that developed resistance. More and worse herbicides and pesticides are required and these are killing the agrobacterium in the Living Soil. Depleting the soil is a losing game. The results are in. The drawbacks are greater than the benefits. In fact there are no benefits, so why plant GMOs.

The *standard operating procedure* of Corporate spending is to *try* to propagandize the American People with scare tactics to defeat bills that don't put money into the Corporate coffers. It is the wrong approach for AMERICA's future because Big Money's distortion is extortion.

Above all the disinformation noise, vocal groups of anti-GMO activists actually do have credible, viable INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH information that argues the opposite side of what the *King Pins* claim. The Oligarchic end game puts profit over people, for the chemical drug culture. This is a *spiritual* problem that rising consciousness must address.

That means it is the U.S. media's turn to face reality. Actual data shows that most ideas in science FAIL, because initial scientific findings are almost certainly incorrect findings. It has been a common error for our press to confuse speculative research claims with confirmatory research that hasn't held up to further research.

The GMOs are a failed experiment. For U.S. media to persist in publishing the same old marketing distortion that created biotech confirmation bias in the first place makes AMERICA look ridiculous in the eyes of the world. It is time for the *Obama Administration* and CONGRESS to acknowledge the *Plain Truth* that the GMO's *actually* are a safety issue of global prime concern.

It is a FALSE BALANCE of science news reporting by newspapers, radio, and TV coverage to keep on perpetrating incorrect scientific claims that are outdated. That's why so many global citizens everywhere have *Marched Against MONSANTO* on March 24<sup>th</sup>, for three years running, as an annual event.

Since cities such as *Eugene*, *Portland*, and *Salem* take part in such proactive parades, it would behoove Governor Kitzhaber's GMO TASK FORCE to pay attention to critical thinking instead of Industry's fallacies, by asking what the relationship is between the mix of ethics, politics, science, and value judgments, regarding speculative GMO research.

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Talking points are in favor of the importance of banning GMO seed crops and labeling GMO foods in AMERICA in order to assist U.S. farmers and the American People who have environmental, health, and human rights concerns about the potential ill effects of producing genetically engineered food.

(Source: 2012, THE GREAT COURSES, "YOUR DECEPTIVE MIND: A Scientific Guide to Critical Thinking Skills," Course Guidebook, "Science, Media, and Democracy" Lecture 22, by Professor Steven Novella, Yale School of Medicine)

#### The Ball is in Ellen's Court

**As ATTORNEY GENERAL for the State of OREGON, Ellen F. Rosenblum holds High Power of Attorney to ask the OREGON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE to investigate** how come the agricultural bill that had died in legislation as SB633 was revived with a mere name change and underhandedly slipped into the budget bills "Special" package deal that baffled Democratic Governor Kitzhaber.

Alienating one's own political party with whom his actions have lost standing is NOT good positioning. The Governor sabotaged his own party by signing the deal as all, or nothing. That is unethical to say the least. Some have called it dirty politics. The obviously agricultural bill had nothing whatsoever to do with the budget bills, but was sheer folly for the Governor to have to sign or else have to veto the budget from being passed.

Wouldn't it be sweet JUSTICE for Attorney General Rosenblum to **initiate a formal investigation of how the citizen initiatives were infringed upon** when several counties in OREGON were already WELL INTO THE PROCESS of exercising their initiative right to collect referendum signatures in order to have ballot measures to ban GMO seed crops. If it doesn't serve the highest and best interests of the U.S. citizenry, whose private interests did the state agency serve in putting profits over people. *Follow the money trail.*

Not all states are people's initiative states, but OREGON is. That's why Governor Kitzhaber's name is mud for retroactively applying the unconstitutional rider to counties such as Josephine that were in the active process of exercising their state constitutional right for a people's initiative ballot measure for the May 2014 ballot.

Governor Kitzhaber's threat to court-fight Josephine County's ballot win to ban GMO crops comes at a time when he is up for re-election in November. The Governor's only saving grace would be if voters **request Ms. Rosenblum to formally require an OREGON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE investigation of the state FARM BUREAU agency** for the notorious rider getting snuck into the special budget package deal, and her just removal of it from the budget deal, since Jackson County had already qualified Measure 15-119 and Josephine County was in the process of doing the same. *Kitzhaber castrated Klamath, Lane, Multnomah and other counties in OREGON from their potent rights to exercise ballot initiatives for protective bans against GMO invasion.*

The **big picture** is similar to the recent Supreme Court's ruling that the Clean Air Act holds upwind Industry liable for emissions that pollute the air of those who are downwind and are harmed. Non-GMO farms need to have the right to farm without being harmed by GMO cross-pollination that they don't want and are air pollution victims of because GMO cross pollination is largely wind borne and at places Jackson County is only six-miles wide.

Stay tuned to **the crux of the issue** which is that Governor Kitzhaber crumpled under bully pressure from BAYER CROP SCIENCE, BASF PLANT SCIENCE, DOW AGRO SCIENCES, DUPONT PIONEER, MONSANTO & COMPANY, and SYNGENTA CROP PROTECTION LLC who reign over AMERICA's FARM BUREAU agencies controlled by MONSANTO MONOCRAP.

Our governor bowed to the state's FARM BUREAU agency, rather than upholding the state and federal constitutional rights of the U.S. citizenry. However, might does *not* make right. Bullies use fear tactics to take your power away, people. Scare tactics are *unjust*.

Therefore a formal investigation of the overthrow of the people's initiative rights is the right thing to do, so let's hope Ms. *Rosenblum* puts on her *Cape of Courage*. It's up to you, Ellen. Use your authority, Ellen. Get a mitt and get into the game. *You can do it*.

Voters can call Attorney General *Rosenblum* at 503.378.6002. Her email address is [Ellen.rosenblum@doj.state.or.us](mailto:Ellen.rosenblum@doj.state.or.us). Or write her a letter addressed to her at the Department of Justice Building, 1162 Court Street NE, Salem, OREGON 97301-4096.

CALIFORNIA, HAWAII, and OREGON counties have *already* adopted laws banning or limiting GMO seeds from their soil, as have 66 major markets of the world. But apparently there are some Food Nazis out there who wish to take away your voting power, people. When it comes to exercising your voters' initiative right in OREGON, use it or lose it.

The buck stops with you, *Dear Voters*, to require GMO crop bans BE UPHELD by the OREGON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. Voters in Jackson County, OREGON, have cut to the chase. *Corporate Personhoods have no vote, they can only "try" in vain to influence voters.*

#### Kitzhaber's GMO Task Force

Governor Kitzhaber's GMO assigned a TASK FORCE to study the issue of regulating GMOs and the contract went to PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY's "*Oregon Consensus Project*". Since regulating GMO crops is a matter of INTENSE PUBLIC INTEREST, the Governor's office and his TASK FORCE group decided to keep the public in the loop by making sure there is public access to the TASK FORCE meetings. The meetings are posted in advance online, along with the TASK FORCE AGENDAS at [www.oregon.gov/gov/GNRO/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/gov/GNRO/Pages/index.aspx).

The public *can* comment by sending email to [G.E.Agriculture@state.or.us](mailto:G.E.Agriculture@state.or.us). However public testimony will NOT be taken at TASK FORCE meetings, because the law requires specific situations.

(Source: May 30, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, "*Even GMO crops need sunshine*" Opinion, Our View Section)

### "I Signed" for GMO Labeling

CONNECTICUT and VERMONT have already passed statewide laws requiring labeling of *Genetically Modified Organisms* (GMOs) in food. ARIZONA and COLORADO have similar measures. According to the NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATORS, there are now 85 bills on GMO labeling in 30 states. That's over half of all AMERICA. Between now and July 3<sup>rd</sup>, registered voters in OREGON are downloading the "I signed" form at [www.oregonrighttoknow.org](http://www.oregonrighttoknow.org) to get LABEL GMOs on the state-wide OREGON ballot this November.

(Sources: May 16, 2014, DAILY TIDINGS, "Oregon Activists Announce GMO Labeling Campaign" by Gosia Wozniacka, the Associated Press, Portland; [www.facebook.com/familiesforfoodfreedom](http://www.facebook.com/familiesforfoodfreedom), and [www.familiesforfoodfreedom.org](http://www.familiesforfoodfreedom.org) )

### Planting the Future

What if you gave June brides and grooms, or graduates, a pair of gardening gloves, heirloom vegetable seeds, a vintage watering can, or gardener's creamy hand remedy. *United Plant Savers* are PLANTING THE FUTURE. If you listen, the healing herbs will teach you. To connect up see [www.unitedplantsavers.org](http://www.unitedplantsavers.org) or call 802.476.6467, in VERMONT.

### Pop Quiz

Q. *What's black and white, and read all over?* A. *These newsletters, of course!*

You may want to obtain a complete set and "*Read All About It*". The *Eco-Community Dialogues* newsletters are available from the *A Street Print & Copy* shop across from ACE hardware, in *Ashland*, OREGON. The print shop only charges for paper and ink if you want a hard copy, or save paper and ink by having the print shop download the entire PDF file onto people's flash drives to read off their computers. *It's up to you to bring your flash drive.*

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